

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 11895 061703Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----124286 061704Z /43

O 061655Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5338
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 11895

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS:
TAGS: MOPS, LE, IS
SUBJECT: ISRAELI RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS
REF: A. STATE 221462 B. TEL AVIV 11474

1. IN VIEW OF USG REQUEST POSED IN REF A AND PRIME
MINISTER BEGIN'S RESPONSE, REPORTED IN REF B, DATT ASKED
IDF INTELLIGENCE TO DETAIL ACTIONS TAKEN TO REDUCE/LIMIT
THE PROVOCATION NATURE OF ISRAELI RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS
OVER LEBANON. RESPONSE RECEIVED YESTERDAY, 5 SEP 78,
STATED, "SINCE 1 SEPT THE IAF HAS REDUCED THE RATE OF
RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS OVER LEBANON, PENDING RECEIPT OF
AN ANSWER FROM ASSAD TO PM BEGIN'S QUESTIONS/PROPOSALS."

2. SINCE 1 SEPTEMBER, THE FOLLOWING EVENTS AND RELATED
REACTIONS HAVE OCCURRED:

A. ON AFTERNOON 3 SEPT IAF CONDUCTED A RECONNAISSANCE
FLIGHT OVER LEBANON. THE SYRIANS SCRAMBLED 3 FLIGHTS
OF 4 MIG-21'S AND ONE PAIR OF MIG-23'S ALL OF WHICH
REMAINED OVER SYRIAN TERRITORY.

B. ON 4 SEPT THE IAF CONDUCTED A RECONNAISSANCE OFF THE
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COAST OF LEBANON. THE SYRIANS SCRAMBLED 3 FLIGHTS OF
4 MIG-21'S WHICH AGAIN PATROLLED IN SYRIAN AIRSPACE.

3. FROM THE LIMITED INFORMATION AVAILABLE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE
FOR THE DAO TO DETERMINE TO WHAT DEGREE THE RATE OF
RECONNAISSANCE ACTIVITIES HAS BEEN REDUCED. THE RECON-
NAISSANCE MISSION OF 4 SEPT WAS IDENTIFIED AS A FIGHTER
RECONNAISSANCE MISSION. THE FACT THAT IT WAS FLOWN

OFF SHORE MAY BE A POSITIVE INDICATION OF ISRAELI
RESTRAINT. VIETS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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